

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 EB-07 AID-05 SSC-01 /086 W

----- 124327

R 160800Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9780

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 4702

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, TZ, CM

SUBJECT: NEW TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHINA

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 2967 (NOTAL)

1. PRESIDENT NYERERE ON OCTOBER 6 ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MINISTER OF WORKS, JOB MALECELA LUSINDE, AS AMBASSADOR TO CHINA. ON THE BASIS OF PAST EXPERIENCE, HE WILL PROBABLY BE ACCREDITED TO OTHER COMMUNIST ASIAN COUNTRIES AS WELL. LUSINDE REPLACES AMBASSADOR RICHARD WAMBURA, WHO HAS BEEN NAMED REGIONAL COMMISSIONER AND TANU PARTY SECRETARY FOR MBEYA REGION. HE IS EXPECTED TO PROCEED TO HIS POST SHORTLY AFTER THE OCTOBER 26 GENERAL ELECTIONS.

2. BORN IN DODOMA IN 1930, AND EDUCATED AS A SCHOOL TEACHER, LUSINDE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN TANU POLITICS SINCE 1955. ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT IN 1960, AND REELECTED IN 1965 AND 1970, HE HAS SERVED IN EVERY CABINET SINCE 1961, IN CHARGE SUCCESSIVELY OF THE MINISTRIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (1961-63), HOME AFFAIRS (1963-65), COMMUNICATIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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LABOR AND WORKS (1965-67), COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, AND LABOR

(1967-70), COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS (1970-74), AND WORKS (1974-75). HE DID NOT RUN FOR REELECTION TO PARLIAMENT IN 1975. SINCE 1963 HE HAS BEEN HEAD OF THE TANGANYIKAN AFRICAN PARENTS ASSOCIATION (TAPA), A PARTY-AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION CONCERNED LARGELY WITH EDUCATION. IN THE EARLY 1960'S LUSINDE WAS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH OSCAR KAMBONA, THE NOW EXILED FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER, AND WAS UNDER SUSPICION FOR SOME TIME FOLLOWING KAMBONA'S OUSTER.

3. AS MINISTER FOR WORKS, AND IN PREVIOUS POSITIONS, LUSINDE HAS BEEN INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN THE BUILDING OF THE CHINA-SPONSORED TAZARA RAILWAY BETWEEN TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA, AND THIS MAY HAVE INFLUENCED HIS NEW APPOINTMENT. HE WAS ALSO CLOSELY INVOLVED IN THE TANZANIA-ZAMBIA HIGHWAY, BUILT BY THE UNITED STATES, SWEDEN, AND THE WORLD BANK, AND PROVED TO BE ACCESSIBLE AND COOPERATIVE WITH US OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT. HE IS CONSIDERED TOUGH AND HARDWORKING, BUT NOT ESPECIALLY INTELLIGENT, AND HIS SPOTTY ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD WAS CONSIDERED A FACTOR WHEN HE LOST THE "COMMUNICATIONS" SECTION OF HIS MINISTRY IN 1974. HE HAS TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY IN THE COMMUNIST WORLD.

4. LUSINDE IS THE OLDER BROTHER OF THE TANZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, JOHN MALECELA. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN; HIS WIFE, SARAH, VISITED BRITAIN WITH THE EXPERIMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LIVING IN 1964. LUSINDE IS OF THE ANGLICAN FAITH (HIS FATHER WAS AN ANGLICAN MINISTER), AND HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

5. FOR PEKING: LUSINDE WOULD NOT FIND IT STRANGE TO BE APPROACHED BY AMERICAN DIPLOMATS. HE HAS HAD CONTACT WITH EMBASSY AND AID OFFICIALS HERE OVER THE YEARS.
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